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OLC 72-0702

8 June 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of the Special Group of the House Appropriations Committee - Agency Budget -- 1 June 1972

1. On 1 June 1972, Mr. Colby briefed the Special Group of the House Appropriations Committee on the Agency budget. The meeting lasted from 1500 hours until 1700 hours.

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Discussions included [redacted] material. No transcript was taken and the prepared statement is on file in the Office of Legislative Counsel.

2. Present for all or part of the session were:

George H. Mahon (D., Texas), Chairman
Jamie L. Whitten (D., Miss.)
Robert L. F. Sikes (D., Fla.)
William E. Minshall (R., Ohio)
Frank T. Bow (R., Ohio)

3. Present from the Committee staff was:

Ralph Preston, Staff Assistant

4. Present from the Agency were:

Richard Helms, Director
W. E. Colby, Ex/Dir-Compt
[redacted] DCI/IC/Compt
[redacted] OPPB
John M. Maury, Legislative Counsel

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5. After Mr. Colby completed his prepared text, Mr. Sikes asked why funding in Laos had been changed. The Director responded this had been mainly the result of Senator Stennis' recommendation.

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7. Mr. Whitten commented that the U.S. Government is facing financial crisis and we may have to cut things that none of us wanted to cut. However, he said the Committee couldn't decide what was important in the intelligence community and would have to rely on the Director to use his best judgment.

8. The Chairman asked how we kept people interested in dull, technical work such as photo interpretation work and the Director said most of them were enthusiastic looking upon the whole exercise as a sort of "treasure hunt."

9. Mr. Minshall recalled our trouble with the NPIC air conditioning system and Mr. Colby said we were thinking about a new building but it was a matter of money.

10. The Chairman asked about the "curve" of the Agency personnel strength. The Director said it had gone up sharply at the time of the Korean war and had been coming down since he became Director but he wasn't quite sure as to where the reductions actually began.

11. The Chairman asked if we had any complaints about reporting on India and Pakistan and the Director said our record was excellent. Mr. Preston volunteered confirmation of this.

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14. In conclusion, Mr. Bow remarked he had been a member of the Committee for many years and this was the best briefing he had heard. The Chairman and Mr. Minshall concurred. Mr. Whitten remarked he was a new member but it was certainly the best briefing he had heard and he congratulated the Director.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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